(b) whether a Central Team also visited Punjab to assess the loss of lives and properties; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ceiling on expenditure will be approved in accordance with the established procedure on receipt of the report of the Central Team.

Unemployment Allowance

349. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistant demand to provide unemployment allowance to the jobless in the country;

(b) if so, whether several State Governments have also urged Central Government to examine the possibility of providing unemployment allowance to the jobless; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) The demands for providing unemployment allowance to the jobless in the country have often been received from various quarters, including a few State Governments. The Central Government has examined this and is not in favour of payment of unemployment allowance to any category of the unemployed. Such a step has very large financial implications. The Government feels that resources of such a massive magnitude should be utilised on schemes which generate productive and enduring employment opportunities rather than be frittered away either on schemes which create unproductive work or on payment of doles to the unemployed, particularly at the present stage of development of our economy which calls for optimum utilisation of limited resources available.

Criticism of Agricultural Research in the Country

350. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm experts have sharply criticised country's agricultural research system;

(b) whether in the field of farm research any satisfactory progress has been achieved by the scientists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and further steps Government propose to take to boost the agricultural research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Modern agriculture technology developed by the scientists has helped in increasing the agricultural productivity substantially. During the last four decades, productivity increase in foodgrains was from 6.4 to 11.8q/ha, in mustard from 4 to 7 q/ha, in cotton from 0.95 to 1.93 q/ha, (lint) in sugarcane from 342 to 599 q/ha, in potato from 66 to 126 q/ha and in tobacco from 7.7 to 10.9 q/ha. Also egg and milk production increased from 10.0 to 16.9 billions and from 31.6 to 45.9m. tonnes, respectively during the period 1980-81 to 1987-88.

(c) The foreign expertise has been sought wherever required.